



2009 VA/DoD Sharing Conference

Success Stories on Sharing: Clinical Applications Hemodialysis & Neurosurgery

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Outline

- **A Short History**
- **Writing PDs and Recruiting Staff**
- **Integrating Operations**
- **Sourcing and Procuring Equipment**
- **Reimbursement / Workload**
- **Establishing Performance Monitors**
- **Advancing the Model**



Short History of Joint Venture

- **Origin: 1993 closure of Martinez VAMC**
- **VA operated Med/Surg unit at DGMC**
- **Jointly staffed Inpt Psych unit at DGMC, no 5150**
- **'88 & '95 BRAC - Mather AFB & McClellan AFB**
 - **VA opens Sacramento (Mather) VAMC & McClellan OPC**
 - **DGMC opens satellite clinic within VA McClellan**
- **New Reimbursement Methodology**
 - **Reciprocal rates: fair and equitable**
- **Win-win spirit and open negotiation**
- **Joint Incentive Fund (JIF) Opportunities**



Writing PDs and Recruiting Staff

- Start Early!
- Get help! You don't have to be the SME
- Hemodialysis
 - USAF: M-W-F; VA: T-Th-Sa
 - Integration occurred after two years of operation
 - Staff and patients fully integrated
- Neurosurgery
 - VA staff integrated in ICU, Surgical Unit and OR
 - Air Force and VA staff operate NS Clinic in VA facility



Integrating Operations

- The Joint Commission
- And who's the host?
 - Existing versus new programs
- Credentialing
- Tasking complicated by staffing integration
- Keep it patient centered



Sourcing and Procuring Equipment



- **Joint Dialysis Unit**
 - Relocated to old CCU; expanded to 10 chairs
 - Acid Loop System -improved employee safety

- **Neurosurgery**
 - Brain Lab: JIF funded equipment advanced the complexity of Neurosurgical work at DGMC
 - Safe Patient Handling—multiple funding options



Reimbursement/Workload

- **Hemodialysis**
 - **Supplies (significant expense)**
- **Neurosurgery**
 - **Lease rate on shared space (75% BOMA)**
 - **Focus: bartering staff for surgical procedures**
- **Business Planning**
 - **VA patients captured**
 - **Meets DoD business plan goals**
- **Plan on creative workarounds!**



Establishing Performance Monitors



- Establish accurate and comparable community costs
- Projected Caseload
- Quality/Patient Satisfaction
- Monitor staff turnover and backfills
- Reduction in wait time for VA consults, surgical procedures and second opinions
- Enhance medical readiness capability of DoD surgeons, nursing staff, anesthesia staff and medical technicians



Advancing The Model

■ Hemodialysis provided:

- **Access: significant increased services available to Veterans and DoD Beneficiaries alike**
- **Top notch Quality of Care; beyond that available in the community**
- **Patient satisfaction is unsurpassed**
- **New state of the art system opening Dec 2009**

■ Neurosurgery provided:

- **Truest success realized in staff/patient integration**
- **Creative reimbursement methodology to capture workload; low impact on business ops**
- **Access: Significant reduction in wait times for VA and minimized impact of deployments on DoD**